

Manchester to Write Uncut Story As Epilogue to Earlier JFK Book

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William Manchester intends to write an epilogue to his "Portrait of a President," the book about John F. Kennedy that led the Kennedy family to choose him to write the authorized account of the assassination, the controversial "The Death of a President."

According to reports in literary circles, the epilogue will give Manchester an opportunity to write without restriction about the day of President Kennedy's assassination and the events of the following week, the first week of the Johnson administration.

Plans for the epilogue were confirmed by Arthur H. Thornhill Sr., president of the Boston publishing firm of Little Brown & Co., publishers of "Portrait of a President."

Thornhill said "Portrait of a President" with the epilogue would not be reissued until after Harper & Row publishes the hard-cover version of "The Death of a President," an event scheduled for early April.

Asked about reports that the epilogue would be 3,000 or 4,000 words in length, Thornhill said he did not know how long it would be. "It could be 3,000 words or 10,000 words," he said.

Thornhill said the epilogue would be written in an effort to bring "Portrait of a President," written before the assassination, up to date and would not be written with the intention of commercializing the dispute over Manchester's subsequent work.

Harper & Row was given permission to bring out the hard-cover version of "The Death of a President" under terms of an agreement reached with Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy after she filed suit to prevent publication because some of the material in

Manchester's manuscript was objectionable to her.

Harper & Row made modifications in the manuscript, as did Look magazine, publishing the serialized version. The dispute with the Kennedy family has reportedly left Manchester disgruntled, and writing the epilogue would give him an opportunity to deal with some aspects of the assassination for the first time without restraint.

During the dispute, Mrs. Kennedy made it clear that she objected to material that she considered personal and private. This included letters she sent the president while she was vacationing in Greece and material taken from Manchester's tape-recorded interviews of her, particularly her thoughts in the aftermath of the assassination.

Under terms of a memorandum of understanding signed by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Manchester, the manuscript could not be published until the Senator and Mrs. Kennedy had given their approval.